

- - REMARKS - -

The present amendment replies to a First Non-Final Office Action dated May 22, 2002. Claims 1-9 are currently pending in the present application. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of amendments to claims 1-9 that is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**".

In the First Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Williams objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) for including a reference sign 13 in FIG. 1 that was not mentioned in the description. The Applicants traverse this objection, because the original specification states "The lamp cap also comprises contact members 14 which are provided with a screen 13 ...". See, the original specification at page 6, lines 26 and 27. Withdrawal of this objection to the drawings is therefore respectfully requested.

Also in the First Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Williams objected to the title of the present invention and the use of the terms "means" and "said" in the description. In response thereto, the Applicants are concurrently filing a marked-up specification and a substitute specification in accordance with 37 CFR §1.125 that address this aforementioned objections. No new matter was introduced into the substitute specification.

Also in First Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Williams rejected pending claims 1-9 on various grounds. The Applicants respond to each rejection as subsequently recited herein, and respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the present application under 37 CFR § 1.112:

- A. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Canadian Patent No. 766,196 to *Luck et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,129,980 to *Tsukada et al.*

The Applicants have thoroughly considered Examiner Williams' remarks concerning the patentability of independent claim 1 over *Luck* in view of *Tsukada*. The

Applicants have also thoroughly read *Luck* and *Tsukada*. The Applicants respectfully traverse this §103 rejection of independent claim 1, because *Luck* teaches away from a use of the film of *Tsukada* in place of the film on the lamp of *Luck* for purpose of reducing reflectance and improving the visibility of the emitted light.

Specifically, *Luck* discloses a translucent lacquer that can be made more translucent by an addition of a predetermined amount of finely divided, light scattering substance, such as finely divided titanium dioxide. See, *Luck* at page 9, lines 14-25. By comparison, the present invention discloses a substitution of a translucent lacquer with an optically transparent and non-scattering “light-absorbing coating comprising a network which can be obtained by conversion of an organically modified silane selected from the group formed by compounds of the following structural formula: $R^I Si(OR^{II})_3$, wherein R^I comprises an alkyl group or an aryl group and wherein R^{II} comprises an alkyl group” as recited in amended claim 1. See, the substitute specification at page 4, lines 10-13. Thus, at the time of the present invention, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to use of the coating of *Tsukada* in place of the translucent lacquer on the lamp of *Luck*, because such a substitution would not achieve a translucent coating as taught by *Luck*.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Luck* in view of *Tsukada* is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-8 depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, dependent claims 2-8 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 2-8 are allowable over *Luck* in view of *Tsukada* for at least the same reasons as set forth with respect to independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 2-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) being unpatentable over *Luck* in view of *Tsukada* is therefore respectfully requested.

- B.** Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Canadian Patent No. 766,196 to *Luck* et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,129,980 to *Tsukada* et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,863,321 to *Crumley* et al.

Claims 9 depends from independent claim 1. Therefore, dependent claim 9 includes all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claim 9 is allowable over *Luck* in view of *Tsukada* and *Crumley* for at least the same reasons as set forth with respect to independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) being unpatentable over *Luck* in view of *Tsukada* and *Crumley* is therefore respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

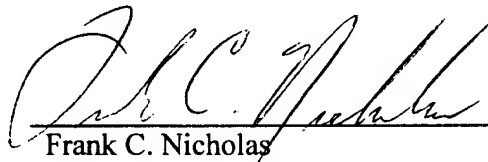
Examiner Williams's objections to the specification have been obviated by the submission of a substitute specification. Examiner Williams's objection to the drawings and 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections of claims 1-9 have been obviated by the above remarks. The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-9 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank C. Nicholas", is written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An electric lamp, comprising:
 a light source (2) operable to emit a visible light; and
 a light-transmitting lamp vessel (1) which accommodates [a] the light source (2),
 wherein at least a part of the lamp vessel [(2)] (1) is provided with a light-absorbing coating (3)[,,
 wherein the light-absorbing coating (3) includes] including a pigment which absorbs a part of the visible light,
[characterized in that]
 the light-absorbing coating (3) [comprises] having a network which can be obtained by conversion of an organically modified silane [by means of a sol-gel process,
 [said] the organically modified silane being] selected from [the] a group formed by compounds of the following structural formula: $R^I\text{Si}(\text{OR}^{II})_3$,
 wherein R^I comprises an alkyl group or an aryl group, and
 wherein R^{II} comprises an alkyl group.
2. (Amended) [An] The electric lamp as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the R^I group comprises CH_3 or C_6H_5 .
3. (Amended) [An] The electric lamp as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein the R^{II} group comprises CH_3 or C_2H_5 .
4. (Amended) [An] The electric lamp as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein an average diameter d_p of the pigment is $d_p \leq 100 \text{ nm}$.

5. (Amended) [An] The electric lamp as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that the] wherein a thickness t_c of the light-absorbing coating (3) is $t_c \geq 1 \mu\text{m}$.
6. (Amended) [An] The electric lamp as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein silica particles having a diameter $d \leq 50 \text{ nm}$ are incorporated in the network.
7. (Amended) [An] The electric lamp as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein the pigment is an inorganic pigment.
8. (Amended) [An] The electric lamp as claimed in claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein the pigment is selected from the group formed by iron oxide, iron oxide doped with phosphor, zinc-iron oxide, cobalt aluminate, neodymium oxide, bismuth vanadate, zirconium praseodymium silicate or mixtures thereof.
9. (Amended) [An] The electric lamp as claimed in claim 8, [characterized in that] wherein the pigment is formed by a mixture of iron oxide and bismuth vanadate or by a mixture of iron oxide doped with phosphor and bismuth vanadate.